ball-of-light international data exchange

BOLIDE

co-ordinator

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Dear subscribers,

Here is your first 'Bolide' dossier. Inevitably, just because it is the first, it is made up of what you happened to have to hand, here and now; so some of it will be familiar to many of us. But not all, I'm sure: so already we've made a start.

The collection is diverse, as you were warned. Except that it all concerns BOLs of some kind, or phenomena to which BOLs may be related, there is little common ground. Those of you who are primarily interested in one specific field may feel a little impatient, even irritated, at some of the items; but atleast they demonstrate how hard it is to lay down precise guidelines.

I had hoped to employ some kind of classification system, but when the material came in I couldn't see how it could be done. Most of the items relate to unidentified phenomena; and those that are labelled 'ball lightning', for example, are often only provisionally so labelled, and may require re-allocation as our knowledge grows. So all I've done is give each item a number to facilitate eventual classification.

At the time of this sending-out, I have yet to hear from many of the farther-flung individuals who were invited to subscribe. So the enclosed list of subscribers contains only the first few.

My thanks to all of you who have written so encouragingly. I hope the result will make you feel this is a worthwhile venture. In any case I welcome your criticisms as well as further contributions, which may include comments on the items in this dossier.

Sincerely,

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